

**Local Assistance  
Highway Bridge Program (HBP) Advisory Committee Meeting  
February 19, 2026 – Action Items and Summary**

**Attendees:**

Dee Lam, DLA	
Zhongren Wang, DLA	Roberta Jensen, DLA
Bob Baca, DLA	Andy Chou, DLA
Jason Chou, SLA	Humayra Saba, DLA
Matt Randall, Placer County	Jeremy Wright, SLA
Michael Chung, San Joaquin County	Kirk Anderson, Caltrans D6
Umer Ahmed, Riverside County	
Chris Sneddon, Santa Barbara County	
Jesse Gothan, City of Sacramento	
Jon Pray, CTC	
Tim Sobelman, CTC	
Vanessa Schoenewald, SBCTA	

**Decisions**

No decisions were necessary or made.

**Action Items**

In a future HBP Advisory Committee meeting, HBP managers will bring forth a policy change proposal regarding the metering of new deck methacrylate preventive maintenance projects accepted into the HBP. Instead of waiting for 2 years after acceptance (HBP's metering policy), deck methacrylate projects could potentially be authorized to start the following FFY.

**Discussions**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Dee welcomed the committee. She noted that projects with current-year programming should submit E-76 as soon as possible. HBP funding is in high demand and the program is expecting a lot of EPSP/Post-Programming advancements this FFY. This is the last year of BFP apportionment from the federal government with IIJA.

Dee also noted that HBP is currently staffed at 50%, and staff have been reduced across the division due to budget challenges.

**2. Agenda Review**

No comments.

**3. Review of 12/11/2025 Draft Action and Summary**

HBP managers reviewed the draft Action and Summary from the December meeting. There were no comments from the committee members.

**Local Assistance  
Highway Bridge Program (HBP) Advisory Committee Meeting  
February 19, 2026 – Action Items and Summary**

**4. Financial Status FFY 25/26:**

HBP Managers shared the current FFY 25/26 report as of 2/9/2026 with the following points:

- HBP has \$566 million of apportionment available in FFY 25/26 between core apportionment and BFP funds.
- De-obligations to date are approximately \$9.7 million, which provides additional capacity.
- \$67 million has already been obligated and an additional \$60 million is already in the pipeline to be obligated.

**5. 2026 HBP Prioritization:**

HBP Managers has reported the following on 2026 Prioritization:

- In the 2026 Project Prioritization list, there are 39 off federal-aid system projects with a total federal funding demand of \$160 million and 37 on federal-aid system projects with a total federal funding demand of \$165 million.
- HBP Managers recommend deferring the cutoff decision and project acceptance until February 2027. The total demand on the program is approximately 12 years and it is unknown what the next transportation act will include. HBP can evaluate the ability to accept new projects if more information is available by February 2027.

Placer County proposed a policy change that would allow BPMP, more specifically deck methacrylate projects, to be delivered quicker. Consideration of not metering deck methacrylate projects was proposed.

**6. Review of New Action Items:**

In a future HBP Advisory Committee meeting, HBP managers will bring forth a policy change proposal regarding the metering of new deck methacrylate preventive maintenance projects accepted into the HBP. Instead of waiting for 2 years after acceptance (HBP's metering policy), deck methacrylate projects could potentially be authorized to start the following FFY.

**7. Round Table:**

- There has been discussion regarding the new transportation act, as IIJA is ending this year. DLA has encouraged local agencies to advocate for BFP funding. Dee shared the document (link below), which will serve as a foundation for a coordinated federal advocacy strategy in collaboration with transportation partners across the state.

**Local Assistance**  
**Highway Bridge Program (HBP) Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**February 19, 2026 – Action Items and Summary**

<https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/federal-liaison/documents/ijja-2025cpd-final-draft-a11y.pdf>

- There was also discussion about the BASICS bill, which would carry over the IJJA Bridge Formula Program, but have a restriction that 25 percent of funds be obligated across population-based categories (urbanized, small urban, and rural), with the remaining funds available for statewide use. HBP managers shared their opposition to this restriction as it deviates from the program's goal and priority of structural safety being the number one priority on funding allocation.
- Placer County noted that some agencies have shared anecdotes of struggles to meet the 11.47% match requirement for off federal-aid system projects and asked whether toll credits can be used in such cases. DLA provided the update on toll credits. Existing reimbursement rates were discussed to remain as is.
- Placer County noted that some agencies have shared challenges with NEPA requirements. Other committee members shared personal anecdotes with environmental challenges on their projects. HBP managers shared the process of working with each project/local agency individually to address and balance project needs and HBP eligibility limitations.